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**From:** Smith, DavidW  
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**Dental Amalgam Rule** On 5/28, EPA forwarded for OMB review a draft rule that would require use of dental amalgam separators in most dental offices as this technology is an effective

method for reducing mercury discharges to waterways. The new requirements would be contained in a revised effluent limit guideline that would be implemented through wastewater

pretreatment programs. (David Smith, 972-3464)

**NPDES Permit for Offshore Oil and Gas Platforms** EPA is exploring with Department of Interior and one offshore platform operator the possibility of conducting intensive monitoring within the next 2 months of scheduled hydraulic fracturing projects previously permitted by DOI. Collecting additional chemical and toxicity data immediately following a hydraulic fracturing project would help fill data gaps and address public concerns about whether discharges of wastewater following well stimulation adversely affect ocean water quality. EPA is evaluating an environmental group petition and letter from California Coastal Commission that raise concerns about potential water quality impacts from well stimulation. On 5/23, the deadline for appeals on Region 9's NPDES general permit for offshore platforms passed with no appeals being filed. (David Smith, 972-3464)

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